

Fiction by Jack Ritchie





PRESE WHEE FORE SECRETARIES on the pary, un loursettee, and two reduceds. A more no. retainment, and two requests. A more super and propulated callection of onlings garls would have been difficult to assemble. Correction. Utstarly impossible.
They sat in two kines of streight back shows and rifes on their last, and waited for the trial

"Your Boot," I sad, "What is the caroffe charge agreed my wife?" Madge Regen, green even and ab. . . shout 125 mainds. Ed say ... rested her chie on the good head "What have you decided on, Madam Promortor?" she asked briskly

the table "Visition of the Sherman Auth Tract Act, your House Mes Trucy has en shoulest manapoly. She's threatening the oce. narrow-morried offitsale. After all, new fiere are only accounters of up left in the world. Ful toon waters, one man, and Mr. Presents Person sights, "Taken pe nich, I'd No. to help, but I'm seventy night." "Besides the surround of monitors," Done

contagned. There is conclude the we must canider." She blabed slightly. "Our emo Forme Kellog's skylidge ones speckled in



digitation. There, said a niety thing to say.

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"Bos." Medge Began said sowthingly
"Medde means narranguable."

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don't we?

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why the harmon more should continue. The rerults alvisately hance? Here, too good to die.
"That were not social artifact," Roise and "Probably, engendered by enumeral insurancy."
"If the harmon more remains as harmones." "Suppose you have all gards for all bears for even at their see time of eith, don't you coulus the possible consequence? You've hand of the Bakes, locent's you? Interesting coplexates the half characteristics are all as the good."
"That is my hashand," Beles declared or plateasity "hod what's more he'v going to plateasity." "hod what's more he'v going to

photonly "And what's more he's going o course by hubband alone."
"Don't I said "Don't excite yoursell!!"
"I'd like to posit out," my wife said excely Districtly Fluments, Imageness Indicks, pt. op. 17 workfull was that Nr. Trans, W. Wig, in the paid of the currery where I come from we're constrained as penging as facilities below to Eur. "She stap and "Only you care for gare day."

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"Annual Podrous," Midge extended "The will will begin." I downed a different pedge and pay," Below strapped. "Simon the "Mill the people in the well-see in this reser. There are no other pedges or main." She gloud at me. "You're in big help. You put at here with a smarkon your fare."
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"They're with their patients or constraint, or searching like thee," Bribes said after a few more resonanc.
I famind the gaffe over some again. "Where is be?"
"The a the, dear-That older women Regen upparts to be for some.

Edges stad. "Your puly mills and fertigers and bings like that To benefits our interpolate And benefits if was something to do on Sunday altermone. There wasn't a heavy school within fifty miles."

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a story by marrie fisher

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short story by mervin fish

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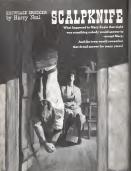
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But it's only a wild ribbit, so once more they shuck off their sweaters and snuggle infa their respective sacks. Soddenly the anuel to starts — sha's sive they are being walched!













... and all that JAZZ a best seize by david meltan

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way.
"I'll betcha he's from d' 200," said
Herhie.
"Naw, ya boob, who ever heard of

a talkin' monkey in d' Bronx Zoo.
I'll betcha the monkey's a run-a-way
from d' circus, an' must be worth a
cool grand in reward-money."

cool grand in reward-money."

The boys, suddenly allied by money, continued to follow Kong.

"The circus ain't in town," said

Herbie, a little painfully.

"It don't make no difference," said
Clinch, "he still must be worth a lot

of money."
"It figures." Glinch and Herbie continued.

Kong jumped for joy and, as he landed, said heartily: "Wow! This is just too much!" And was immediately hit in the head with an empty can of tomato-paste. "Cnt it out." Kong said, and turned

to meet his adversaries.

Glinch and Herbie, their green-and-

light, advanced.
"Okay, let's get him," said Glinch in expert undertones.

Herbie nodded grimly. In unison clicking they un-sprung their switch-blades and marched toward Kone.

How un-poetic, ugly and filthy were the city streets. And the humans were so ugly and evil. They laughed and threw garbage at Irms. And the other animals were so nasty—like the dog who chased her up a telephone pole. He had such cruel teeth and made such gruesome growling noises, that Irms all but swooned in terror

and barely made her escape.

The cats were the worst. They'd get furious at the sight of her, making

the most inhuman sounds.

Everywhere Irma went, it was always too late. One time, it was almost the end.

"Hey-yy! Another talkin' monkey," said Herhie. "What happened to Kong?" asked

Irma.

"He got away – but you ain't,"
sneered Glinch, running at her with
a repulsive knife in his hands.

It was like that. Either the humans wanted to kill her, or capture her, stone her, or laugh at her. The animals couldn't talk. The humans would not listen.

Beaten, and weary, Irma found a small woods, which was actually a man-made park. She crawled up a fat tree-trunk, and rested in the drapery of the tree's leafage.

A bruised sequence of clouds announced the completion of day. Soon it would be night. A great and painful loneliness widened inside Irma's tired body. She imagined Kong as being torn to shreds by one of the lunatic "imals of the streets, or carved into traginents by a gang of fanged children.

Irma, in her tree-top sanctuary, wept softly, as befitting a young poetess, and a silhouette of a bird crossed against a cloud.

There would be questions if Minnie Stonsky called the police. And Minnie could not answer them. "A talking monkey? Two talking

monkeys. Now, look here, lady. .
What could Minnie say? Rube, my husband — may he rest in peace — was a genus. A very cultured man who enchanted those animals, and trusted them to my care . . . and I failed him.

The Police would say, most likely, "Enchant? Lady, are you sure it ain't you that's got something missing — in your head?"

Explain, explain. How? Minnie loved Rube, who was a genius. And a genius does not have time to explain. Rube had told her that so many

plain. Rube had told her that so many times.

Arnold snuggled in the valley of Minnie's bosom, looking up at her watery eyes. He winked in sympathy, and Minnie wept all the more. Arnold

had to duck for cover.

Night-life. Neon. The confusion, hustle, and jostle. Laughter and the sounds of music, Live music - the

real thing.

A bruised and dirty Kong, hidden beneath the belly of an ice-truck, watching the doorway open shut to the Hot Rock Jasz Club.

The steam-rivet strains of a homegrown group of rock'n'roll musicians came chugging out of the Hot Rock Club. And fleshy, wiggly women Minked through the doorway.

This is life, Kong thought, and smoothed his mangled skin, patted his rib-cage to feel any breaks or new dents, and decided to crawl out from under the ice-truck. Kong wanted to have a little look into the Hot Rock Club. Just a peek. A wrinkled Brooks Bros. suit stood

A wrinkled Brooks Bros. suit stood tilted in the doorway. It was Rocky Retkin – the East Bronx flash and owner of the Hot Rock Club. He was drunk. Rocky Retkin was never really soher, but tonight he was so drunk

that he almost felt sober.

Preoccupied with the smell of liquor inserting itself in his simian snifler,

Kong's tail tangled around Rocky's silk socks as he tried sneaking through the doorway. A suede toe caught Kong in the belly, sending him into space like a yo-yo, and dragging Rocky

Retkin to the ground.

Rocky reached into his coat, Pulled out his .45 and pointed it at his at-

Kong looked back, his body aching with pain and grease stains. "You okay, man?" he asked Rocky, who was uncertainly sitting on the cement.

"Eh?"
"You okay? You know - did you

Rocky Retkin shut his eyes. They burned against his eyeballs like iodine. Rocky had beard about such things, but always felt he could hold his own. Rocky remembered Morris the Mangler, when they carried him to Bellevue in a strati-tacket, because Morris the Mangler began seeing dollargreen domkeys with canaryyellow

Rocky Retkin opened his eyes. It was still there—a talking monkey. Rocky stood up. His knees buckled a little, and he put the .45 back into its shoulder-holster. "Yeah. Sure. I'm okay," Rocky

whispered, and smiled a green, crooked grin of panic.

A rest-cure in Miami - or, better

yet, Vegas. After all, business was good. Then ran like hell to his black

Thunderbird.

Kong sat on the sidewalk, confused and suddenly very hungry.

Irma was a broken monkey. She had lost her one and only love before he even knew it. Oh, Kongshe thought, and began limping home. From now on, Irma would write meaningful poems filled with the pain of unrequited love.

Oh, Pain! began the first stanza of Irma's new poem. And she continued walking the vacant, night-blackened streets of the Bronx.

While Kong, the rebel, was cornered in the transom of Seigel's Delicatessen, trying to crawl through to steal a snack.

steal a snack.

The policemen asked the monkey
no questions, and Kong would not
have answered them anyway. He was
tired of trying to get through to the

y humans.

The police-car carried the disgraced so Kong to the S.P.C.A. huilding, and deposited him to the custody of Miss Whippet, the Night-Custodian.

Since no one had reported a miss-

ing monkey, and since monkeys decidedly annoyed Miss Whippet, the

MADE FOUR SUCKS LAST HIGHT' (molymod from root II) It was a religion made, with a pump wany first mond the day. You Who Whapper panel our when

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affhoat fiction by ALLEN CLARK



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Rake's Progress The progress of the rake has been noted

the progress of the trace has overs flower with enthusiasm in both oit by Hogarthand Interobre-by Rede Since a "roke" is a confinential playbay, a cultural concern with his amatory movements and plays is understandable. However, enough of culture







much for our subject. Fronkly what kind of roke would ollow his women to drog his oround a potch of grass? And what playboy would stoop to the insulfing indignity of admitting his sod incopolality to pick up onything but twigs and leaves? No...we'd rother overlook the roke and take the gall.







